

K-73

Sterling Castle
103 South Mill Street, Chestertown
c. 1756

Ebenezer Blackiston was the first owner of lot No. 84, having purchased it in 1730 from Simon Wilmer.¹ Blackiston sold the southwest half of the lot in 1738 to Charles Scott,² who, prior to his death in 1756, sold it to his son-in-law, Robert Sterling.³ Sterling was a "Lieutenant in His Majesty's 48th Regiment of Foot, now in America" and had married Ann, daughter of Charles and Ann Scott, who owned The Manor of Stephen Heath and other properties on the road to St. Paul's Church.⁴

The house that the Sterlings built on the half lot was a one and one half story frame dwelling, three bays long and one deep. Both facades had an off center 6-panel door flanked by two 9/9 sash windows with louvered blinds. On the steeply pitched 'A' roof there were two 6/6 sash dormers on each side.

Its plan consisted of two rooms in a hall-parlor plan, with an enclosed winder stair in the east corner, adjacent a fireplace. Framing members flanking the doors and the plates and corner posts were all exposed and covered with beaded boards. In addition to the plates, there was also a crown molding creating a well proportioned cornice. Vertical beaded board walls divided the two rooms on both floors.

It is not known if there was a second chimney in the parlor or smaller room. But from the evidence of a window centered in the gable upstairs, it would seem unlikely. The location of the kitchen is also

unknown. The existing addition was probably not installed until the McClean occupancy beginning in the 1820's.

In 1759, Sterling was forced to sell the house to satisfy his debts. The new owner, Richard Porter "chirurgion of Chestertown" bought not only the house, but its contents as well for @100.⁵ M. P. White points out in his research of the house that ever since that transaction the house has been known as "Sterling Castle." White felt this to be a mockery of its former debtor/owner.⁶

Emmanuel Josiah, a Philadelphia merchant, sold Sterling Castle in 1771 for @100, a @40 loss from his initial acquisition in 1759.⁷ Ralph Story, the purchaser, was a Chestertown Shipwright, but it is not known how long he remained in Chestertown. When he wrote his will in 1783, he was a resident of Fells Point and the will stated that the house on lot No. 84 "wherein a certain Barrel now lives" be left to his eldest son, William.⁸ William died before his father, without heirs, so the house and lot became the property of William's niece, Elizabeth Jones and her husband John. According to their deed to Margaret McClean some forty years later, they resided in Baltimore County and had retained the house as a rental property.⁹

As mentioned above, McClean was probably responsible for the construction of the one story, two bay kitchen wing. Its plan consisted of an entry with a ladder like stair to an unfinished attic and kitchen lit by a large 12/8 sash window in front. A porch or leanto was located to the rear of the new wing. The kitchen mantel was crudely worked with gouge carving,

typical of the 1st quarter of the 19th Century.

Margaret McClean wrote her will in 1830 and died eight years later in 1838. She designated that the house and lot be given to her sister, Anna Maria "during her natural life and after her death to Thomas Lorain McClean . . ." ¹⁰ At the time of the 1841 Tax Assessment, Anna owned, but did not reside at Sterling Castle, it was instead inhabited by the Reverend G. Heritage.

The next transaction recorded is the purchase of the property by Charles Davis. While Davis may have lived at Sterling Castle, by 1866 he had built and was living in a new duplex next door (105 South Mill Street). When he died that same year, he bequeathed the "old house" in which his son John was living to his two daughters, Sally and Mary Anna. ¹¹

In Sally's will, written in 1916, she mentions that her duplex was adjoining the property of her brother John, so apparently the girls gave or sold the house to their brother. ¹² It remained in the heirs' names until 1941 when it was sold to Frank B. and Sarah Shinn. ¹³ In the meantime another dwelling had been constructed on the northeast side of the old house. It, however, remained a separate dwelling and was willed to their son, Ralph, in 1959. The Shinn's daughter, Helen Burris received the old house, now part of three duplexes on Mill Street. Five years later it was sold to Adelaide K. Shaughnessy and her sister, Josephine Carvell. ¹⁴

Mrs. Shaughnessy renovated the old house in 1964 and added a new wing onto the back of the house. In the process the former entry in the

1820's wing was made into a corridor to the back porch and a Federal mantel from her former home in Frederick County was installed in the "hall". Plumbing was installed in one of the two second floor rooms. The house remains today, one of Chestertown's small pre-Revolutionary vernacular dwelling houses, possessing an extraordinary framing system and a largely original facade.

1. Land Records, Lib. 4, fol. 36 (JS 16/33).
2. Land Records, Lib. 5, fol. 71 (JS 22/114).
3. Land Records, Lib. 8, fol. 33 (JS 28/247).
4. Ann Scott, widow of Charles Scott, sold their part of the Manor of Stephen Heath to James Frisby in November 1756. It was to become known thereafter as Violet Farm.
5. Land Records, Lib. LR 8, fol. 236.
6. White, M. P. Jr., Unpublished paper "Sterling Castle" and Land Records, Lib. 8, fol. 236 (JS 28/444, 451; 29/103).
7. Land Records, Lib. DD 3, fol. 452.
8. Baltimore County Wills, Lib. 3, fol. 534. Alexander Danskin or Danskin appears in the 1783 Tax Assessment as owner of more lots in Chestertown than anyone else on the list. His name does not appear on the Index to Land Records!
9. Land Records, Lib. TW 4, fol. 278.
10. Wills, Lib. JFB 1, fol. 43.
11. Wills, Lib. JF 1, fol. 376.
12. Wills, Lib. JRC 1, fol. 338.
13. Wills, Lib. EHP 8, fol. 129.

103 S. Mill St.

Chestertown, Md.

private residence

Part of the only remaining telescope house in Chestertown, 103 S. Mill St. was also an "old Tavern" as a deed of the early 1800s refers to it. Its wide beaded clapbearding and multi-paned windows enhance its attractiveness.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

103 S. Mill St.

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Carvell

Adelaide K. Shaughnessy & Josephine K.

Telephone #: 778-

STREET & NUMBER

103 S. Mill St. (Mrs. Shaughnessy)

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Court

Liber #: EHP 8

Folio #: 129

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none known

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

K-73

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

103 S. Mill St. comprises the smaller 2/3 of a three part frame telescope house. The first, or larger of the two, section is 1 1/2 storey with stepp pitched roof. The roof of this section, and the smaller one, are now of fire resistant wood shingles. On the roof are two dormers with 6/6 double hung sashes. The house sits on a low brick foundation.

The first floor, from l to r, has an elongated 9/9 double hung and shuttered window which contains much of the old glass, as do other sashes in the old part of the house. There is then a paneled door with brick stoop (built recently of old bricks) and another elongated 9/9 double hung shuttered window. The cornice is plain and the clapboarding is very wide and beaded. The smallest section also has a steep pitched roof but without dormers. From left to right there is a door with brick stoop of modern vintage and made of old bricks, and a large 12/8 double hung shuttered window.

The north wall is directly attached to 101 S. Mill St.

The southern facade shows an exposed brick chimney base and the chimney has been repointed and recapped in a suitable style. To the east of the chimney is a 6/6 double hung shuttered window and in the gable are two 4 paned casement windows. The barge-board and cornice of this wing are plain. Attached to the entire east side of the house is a wing containing a kitchen, screened porch and bedroom. The roof of this wing is of the shed type continuing down from the pitch of the A roof. On the larger of the two wings there are two 6/6 double hung sash dormers. Prior to this addition the window treatment of the first floor was like that of the front.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-73

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES *mid to late 1700s*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT *unknown*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Part of the only remaining telescope house in Chestertown, 103 S. Mill St. was also ^{part of} an "old Tavern" as a deed of the early 1800s refers to it. Its wide beaded clapboarding and multi-paned windows enhance its attractiveness.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-73

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY see below

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

beginning at an iron pipe on the SE side of Mill and running thence by and with said Mill St. 4823' E 50 ft. to lands of Ralph E. Shinn, thence, by and with Shinn lands the following 3 courses and distances: 1. along the SE end of the frame dwelling S 4137' E 41.16 ft. to a marker. 2. S 4712' W 11.86 ft. to a steel marker, and 3. S 3731' 20" E 94 ft. passing through to NE corner of a frame shed to a fence post and lands of B. Fox, thence by and with Fox lands S 4823' W 37.34 ft. to an

iron pipe and M.P. White, Jr. lands, thence by and with said White lands N 39° 20' 5" W 135.31 ft. to beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kathleen B. White, Historic Site Surveyor

Dec. 1976

ORGANIZATION

Md. Historical Trust/City of Chestertown

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

103 S. Mill St.

EHP 8/129 7/3/64

Helen S. and Arthur H. Burris, and Ralph E. and Edith B. Shinn to Adelaide K. Shaughnessy and Josephine K. Carvell. Shinn's retain use of w chimney until their death, then reverts to 103.

RAS 27/445 8/15/41

Emma F. Davis, Lizzie and John W. Kelley, et al, to B. Frank and Sarah Shinn, \$1,100. Frank willed it to his two children Ralph and Helen.

Will

JF 1/376 2/5/66

of Charles Davis to wife, Mary Ann, life tenancy until death (1881), then to son Charles in trust for his son John, who died 4/16/94, and it went to his heirs Emma F., Lizzie, J. Frank, Milbourne, et al.

JR 1/408 3/20/51

Absalom and Mary Louisa Sparks to Charles Davis, \$345 am. entire property 101-103.

JNG 11/361 1/27/47

JNG 9/313 1/4/44

Samuel P. & Elisabeth G. Carroll to Absalom Sparks, \$160 cm James and Ann Mansfield (hold Carroll's mortgage of \$240) and James B. and Elizabeth Ricaud to Samuel P. Carroll. no calls or property description.

JNG 3/317 12/23/34

Joseph and Martha Acres to James Mansfield & James B. Ricaud. Joseph owes Wm. Lassell \$250 cm. and interest and Mansfield pays debt. No calls or description.

JNG 3/313 12/31/33

Wm. S. Lassell & Charlotte P. to Jos. Acres, \$250 cm. no calls. refers to "old Tavern".

WS 2/458 3/13/19

WS 2/47 11/22/17

WS 1/306 2/16/17

Wm. C. Lassell to Wm. S. Lassell, \$500 sm, #84 and 83.

Wm. Sims to Wm. C. Lassell, \$500 cm, #s 84 and 83.

James Browne to Wm. Sims, \$150 cm US, beginning Main St. running to line w/end of Tavern. Includes 101-103 and corner lot.

TW 1/507 1/14/01

Morgan Brown to Jeams Browne and Susannah Tilden, #s 84 and 83 and appurtenances, 5 shill. cm.

BC 3/162 4/7/91

Charles Vandevin & Wm. Slubey, Merchant, to Morgan Brown, \$650 cm. to Charles, 5 shillings to Slubey, #s 84 & 83 and appurtenances. Goes on to say Charles V. is true & lawful owner of said lotts by an "indefeasible Estate of Inheirittance". From???

EF 6/7 1/29/81

Wm. Slubey to Charles Tilden, 101 and 103. #84 formerly belonged to Jarvis James, plus quarter lot #83. No calls.

DD 4/307 3/15/74

Sarah James, widow, to Wm. Slubey, merchant, \$378 cm. No calls or description.

Will

5/6 3/12/72

of Jarvis James, to Sarah, my house and lot in Chestertown. James was a tanner. House predates or is about this period.

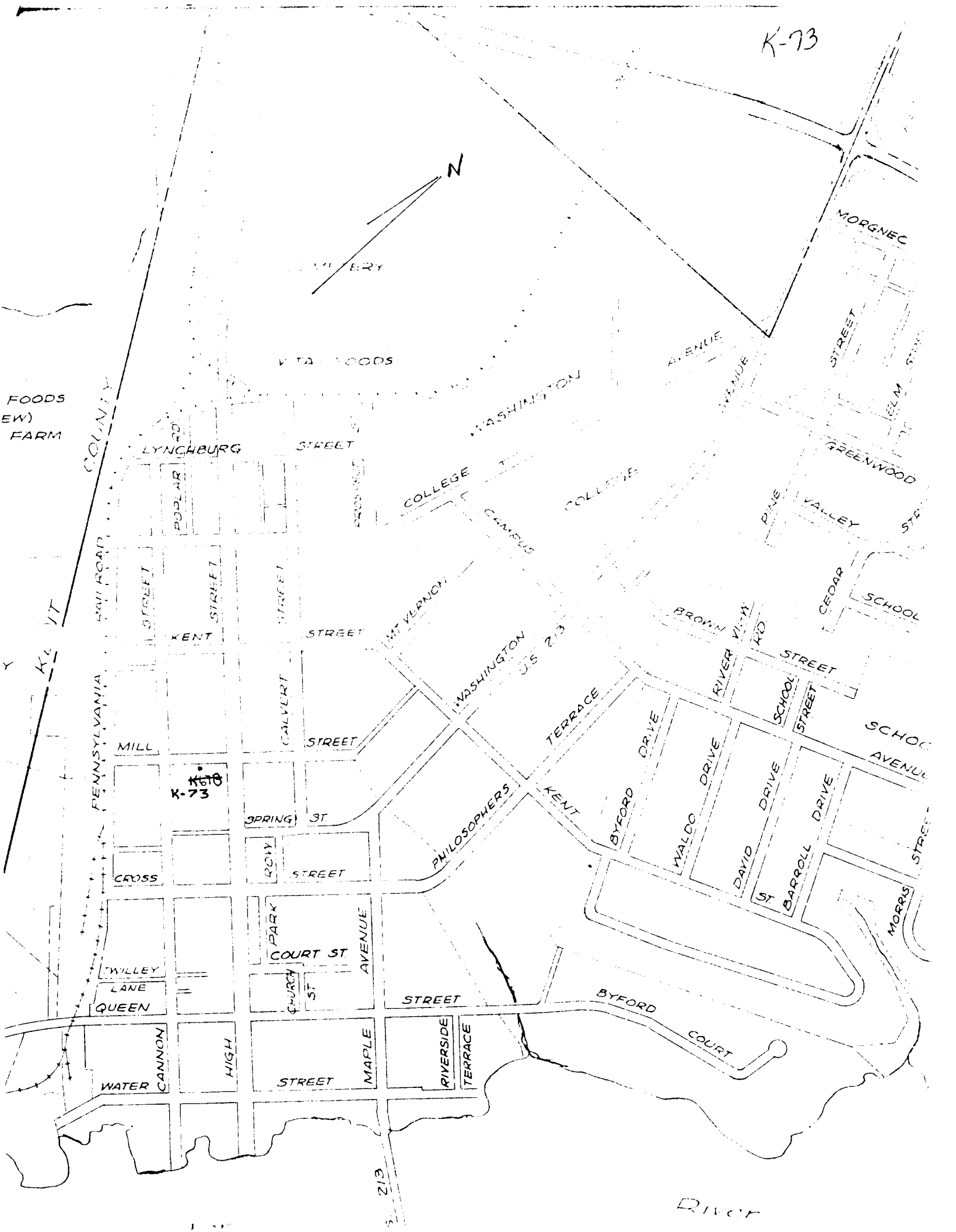
??

4/36 8/28/30

Simon Wilmer to Capt. Ebenezer Blackison, \$10 cm., all #84.

101 and 103 were most probably sold as one property until time of Charles Davis when it began to be divided. 103 is the older of the two properties, but no doubt 101 was at one time a much older structure and rebuilt.
See 67-A.K-355

K-73



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WASHINGTON U.S. 213

BROWN RIVER RD

SCHOOL STREET

SCHOOL AVENUE

MORRIS STREET

BYFORD COURT

STREET

213

RIVER

RIVERSIDE TERRACE

MAPLE AVENUE

STREET

HIGH

WATER

CANNON

QUEEN

TWILLEY LANE

CROSS

MILL

SPRING ST

ROW

STREET

COURT ST

CHURCH ST

STREET

CALVERT STREET

KENT

STREET

POPLAR

LYNCHBURG

STREET

PROD

COLLEGE

CAMPUS

COLLEGE

WASHINGTON

AVENUE

AVENUE

MORGNEC

STREET

STREET

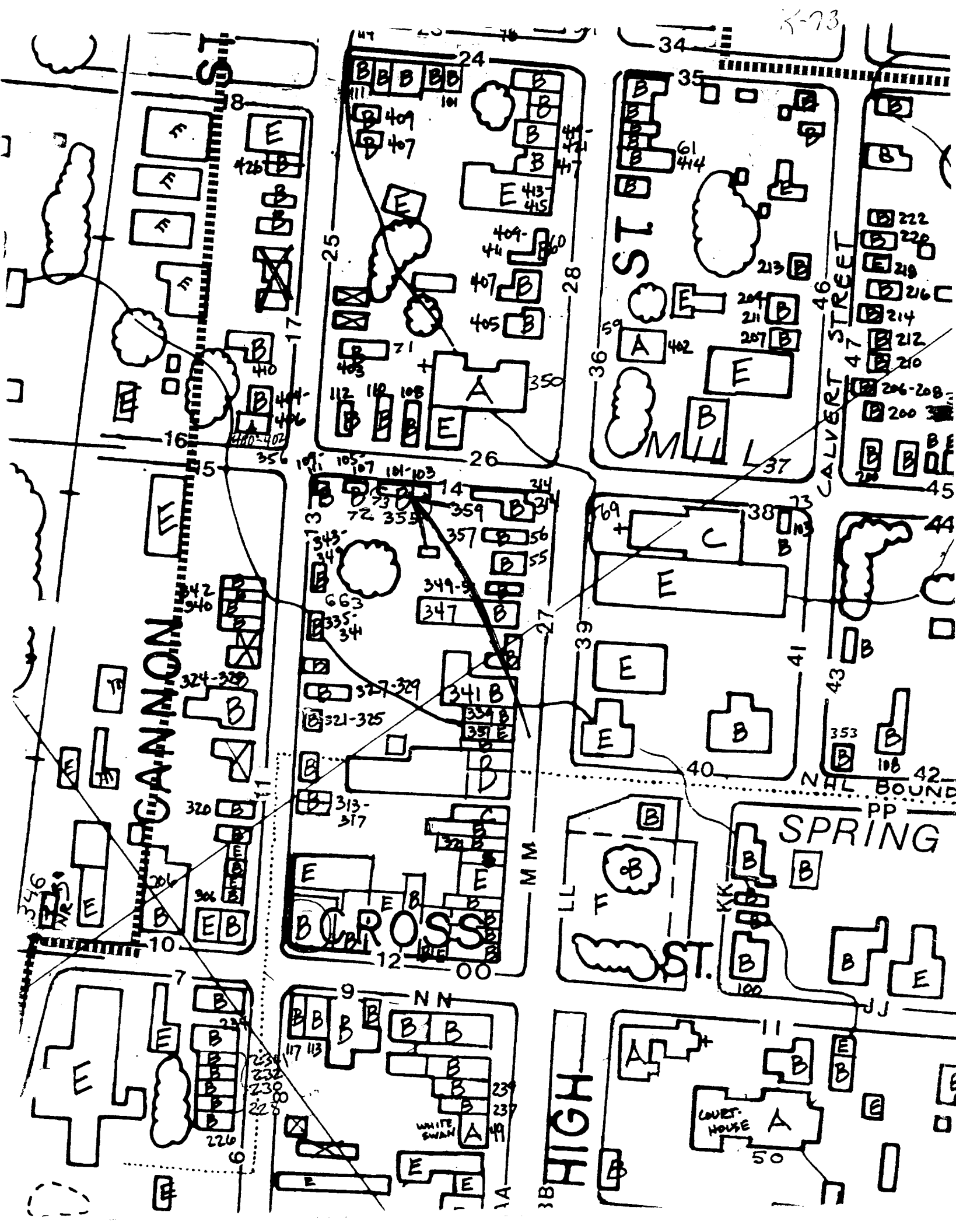
GREENWOOD

VALLEY

CEGAR

SCHOOL

K-73





K 73# 103 S. Hill

1/77 W + S

(K 67A to left)



K 23 ~~B~~ 103 S. Hall

1/77

W

FEB 1963



103 Mill St. K-73-B

✓
Chester town

Kent County

M. Bourn, 1963

V. E. 81